

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5887

UNCLAS BANGUI 0908

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CT

SUBJECT: EXPORT RESTRICTION IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS:

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 146681

1. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE UDEAC (UNION DOUANIERE ET ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE) CUSTOMS TREATY EACH MEMBER STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH EXPORT CONTROLS AND TAXES. THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HAS INSTITUTED A WIDE RANGE OF DUTIES ON ITS EXPORTS. THE EXPORT DUTIES ARE A PERMANENT PART OF THE CAR CUSTOMS CODE LEVIED FOR FISCAL PURPOSES, AND NOT AS ANY ATTEMPT TO CONTROL EXPORTS PER SE OR TO LIMIT ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

2. PRODUCTS COVERED INCLUDE THE CAR'S PRIMARY EXPORTS: COTTON, COFFEE, TIMBER, DIAMONDS, AND ALL FOOD ITEMS, INCLUDING WILD ANIMALS FOR ZOOS. ALL ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS SKINS AND IVORY ARE TAXED. THE CODE CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE TAXING OF MINERALS AND CRUDE PETROLEUM EVEN THOUGH LITTLE OF THE FORMER AND NONE OF THE LATTER ARE CURRENTLY PRODUCED.

3. PORTIONS OF THE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF EXPORT TAXES ARE EARMARKED FOR PRODUCT RESEARCH OR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
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SERVICES, FOR EXAMPLE, COTTON AND COFFEE RESEARCH TAX

AND REFORESTATION TAX ON TIMBER EXPORTS. IN ADDITION TO THE EXPORT TAX, ITSELF, WHICH AVERAGES TEN PER CENT ON THE PRIMARY EXPORTS AND TWO TO FIVE PER CENT ON FOOD, A 10 PERCENT SALES TAX IS UNIFORMLY APPLIED TO ALL EXPORTS. OTHER TAXES VARY. FOR EXAMPLE THE EXPORT TAX ON A LIVE RHINOCEROS IS \$1,000.

4. FOR DETAILS ON PRODUCTS AND SPECIFIC TAXES FOR THE CAR AND OTHER UDEAC NATIONS, SUGGEST YOU CONSULT THE UDEAC TARIFF CODE "TARIF DES DOUANES, DROIT DE SORTIE,¹ WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

5. EMBASSY FEELS THAT EXPORT TAXES OF CAR DO NOT DISTORT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HAVE NO EFFECT ON US TRADE. TAXES DO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE INTERNAL ECONOMY ESPECIALLY PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC PRICING LEVELS AS COMMODITY PRICES ARE HELD DOWN IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AFTER-TAXES WORLD MARKET PRICES FOR EXPORTS.DALE

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